setting up of NIPER like institutes at few other locations in India including Ahmedabad in Gujarat. In this context Government of Gujarat has shown their keen interest to get such institution like NIPER established in their State.

(c) and (d) No final decision has yet been takien to set up an institute like NIPER in Gujarat. However, in order to facilitate setting up of more NIPER like institutes in the country this Department has initiated action to amend the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research act, 1998. Cabinet Note in this regard has already been sent to Cabinet Secretariat for consideration of the proposal to amend NIPER Act.

Contamination of imported wheat by jute bags

2611. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether sub-standard jute bags are contributing to contaminate the imported wheat thereby rendering it unfit for human consumption; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the steps proposed to be taken to prevent such contamination?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Some jute bags not conforming to Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) specifications were found by the Food Corporation of India (FCI).

(b) Accordingly the Ministry of Textiles have constituted a Joint Inspection Team consisting of Food Corporation of India (FCI), Indian Jute Mils Association (IJMA), Directorate General of Supplies & Disposals (DGS&D), Directorate of Quality Assurance and Office of Jute Commissioner, Kolkata to conduct an inspection regarding conformity of jute bags to BIS standards. Jute Commissioner has also initiated action against the alleged defaulting units.

To ensure quality, FCI has been purchasing jute bags through DGS&D. The Jute bags are checked for quality by DGS&D before they are accepted by FCI for packing foodgrains.